

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 H-01 IGA-01 /057 W

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R 311800Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4302

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 0435/1

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PA

SUBJECT: SEMIANNUAL NARCOTICS REPORT FOR PARAGUAY -
CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION

REF: STATE 12151

1. SECTION A (JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1974)

A. ASSISTANCE: ONE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW. THIS WAS THE PROJECT AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1974, PROVIDING FOR COMMODITY AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PARAGUAYAN NARCOTICS SQUAD FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

B. OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES: TOTAL OBLIGATIONS: \$4,000 COMMODITIES; \$3,000 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT. TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$9,000 COMMODITIES; \$4,000 OTHER.

C. EQUIPMENT: EQUIPMENT DELIVERED: VARIOUS TYPES OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES - \$5,967.31; RADIO EQUIPMENT (DUPLEXER, ANTENNA, REPEATER, SPARE PARTS) - \$3,478.84. EQUIPMENT IN PIPELINE AS OF 1/1/75: LABORATORY EQUIPMENT - \$4,963.81; PUBLICATIONS: \$93.50; THREE TRANSCEIVERS, ONE MOVIE PROJECTOR, ONE SLIDE PROJECTOR - TOTAL OF THESE THREE ITEMS \$4,000.

D. SUPPORT COSTS : NONE

E. TRAINING: TWO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE VISITED PARAGUAY IN DECEMBER TO MAKE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONDUCTING A TRAINING SEMINAR HERE IN APRIL. TWO PARAGUAYAN
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POLICE OFFICERS COMPLETED THE DEA INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS

OFFICERS ADVANCED COURSE IN NOVEMBER. A SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE AT THE DEA LABORATORY IN MCLEAN, VIRGINIA, WAS COMPLETED BY TWO HEALTH MINISTRY TECHNICIANS IN OCTOBER.
F. PERSONNEL: THERE ARE TWO DEA AGENT POSITIONS AT POST AND ONE U.S. SECRETARY.

2. SECTION B (JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1974)

A. SUMMARY: INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY CONTINUED TO SUGGEST THE EUROPEAN HEROIN AND BOLIVIAN COCAINE ARE BEING STORED IN PARAGUAY FOR ULTIMATE SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE FIRST CONVICTIONS UNDER PARAGUAY'S NEW NARCOTICS LAW WERE SECURED; THREE COCAINE TRAFFICKERS AND ONE MARIJUANA TRAFFICKER WERE SENTENCED. PARAGUAYAN NARCOTICS SQUAD (NNA) AGENTS CONDUCTED SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AGAINST MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS, AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ELEMENTS OF THE PARAGUAYAN ARMY PARTICIPATED IN NARCOTICS RAIDS. REPORTEDLY AT BRAZILIAN INSISTENCE, PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES INITIATED IN DECEMBER A CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING DRUG TRAFFICKING, IN THE NOTORIOUS BORDER TOWN OF PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO.

B. ABUSE: NO NEW INFORMATION.

C. PRODUCTION AND PREPROCESSING: CANNABIS PRODUCTION IN THE EASTERN REGION OF PARAGUAY IS INCREASING. IT IS CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE 50-100 ACRES PRESENTLY UNDER CULTIVATION, REPRESENTING AN ANNUAL YIELD OF 10-20 TONS. MOST OF IT IS PRODUCED FOR CONSUMPTION IN BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, LOCAL CONSUMPTION, PARTICULARLY IN PUERTO PRESIDENTE STROESSNER, PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO, AND ASUNCION, IS INCREASING. ALTHOUGH IT IS RUMORED THAT THERE IS SOME OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION IN THE AREA OF PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO, THERE HAS BEEN NO HARD INTELLIGENCE TO THAT EFFECT. THERE ARE NO KNOWN LABORATORIES FOR COCAINE OR HEROIN PROCESSING IN PARAGUAY AT THIS TIME.

D. TRAFFICKING TRENDS: INTELLIGENCE CONTINUES TO INDICATE THE EXISTENCE OF A SUBSTANTIAL TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS (LARGELY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, COCAINE) TRANSITING PARAGUAY BY AIR, LAND, AND WATER FROM BOLIVIA TO ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, AND OF A TRAFFIC OF HEROIN FROM EUROPE THROUGH PARAGUAY TO BRAZIL. IN ADDITION, RECENT BUT AS YET UNCONFIRMED INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT EUROPEAN HEROIN AND BOLIVIAN COCAINE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING STOCKPILED IN PARAGUAY FOR SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES.

E. REGIONAL AND MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION: THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ATTENDED THE ARA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO IN OCTOBER; THE SAIC ATTENDED THE PARALLEL DEA-SAIC CONFERENCE IN CARACAS.

F EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES:

1) NEW EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, DCM EVERETT E. BRIGGS,

ARRIVED AT POST SEPTEMBER 19, 1974. THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE DEVELOPED AN INTEGRATED NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOP, AND CONDUCTED AN INTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE CURRENT NARCOTICS SITUATION IN PARAGUAY. BASED ON THAT REVIEW, THE EMBASSY SUBMITTED A REVISED NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PROGRAM (A-92, NOVEMBER 13, 1974) FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT IN LIEU OF THE PLAN SUBMITTED IN A-117 (NOVEMBER 20, 1972) AS MODIFIED (ASUNCION 0529, FEBRUARY 9, 1973).

2) THE GOP'S VIGOROUS CLEANUP IN THE PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO AREA (SEE PARA G) APPARENTLY WAS PROMPTED AS MUCH BY PRESSURE FROM THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AND REPORTS OF EXISTENCE OF A TERRORIST TRAINING CENTER IN THE AREA AS BY A DESIRE TO CRACK DOWN ON THE ENDEMIC SMUGGLING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING THERE.

3) A PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF THREE MOBILE RADIOS AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT WAS SIGNED WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1974.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 IGA-01 H-01 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4303

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ASUNCION 0435/2

G. ENFORCEMENT:

1) ON SEPTEMBER 4, THE FIRST CONVICTIONS UNDER PARAGUAY'S NEW NARCOTICS LAW WERE ACHIEVED. THE JUDGE OF THE SECOND CRIMINAL COURT HANDED DOWN SENTENCES OF TWO YEARS EACH TO THREE PARAGUAYAN CITIZENS FOR POSSESSION AND TRAFFIC IN COCAINE IN THE PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO AREA. ON SEPTEMBER 12, THE FIFTH CRIMINAL COURT CONDEMNED AN ARGENTINE CITIZEN TO ONE YEAR IN THE PENITENTIARY FOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION AND TRAFFICKING IN THE CORONEL OVIEDO AREA.

2) THE NNA HAS FORMED TWO MOBILE ENFORCEMENT GROUPS WHICH ARE INTENDED FOR SURPRISE SEARCH AND SEIZURE OPERATIONS. THEIR OPERATIONS ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY SPECIAL (CCINC) 482 FUNDS. IN AUGUST MEMBERS OF THE NNA ARRESTED TWO PARAGUAYANS ON NARCOTICS (MARIJUANA) CHARGES IN PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO. LATER, FOUR RAIDS BY THE NNA NETTED 21 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA AND 407 NATIVE MARIJUANA PLANTS ON TWO PLANTATIONS AND THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF 12 ACCUSED TRAFFICKERS. THREE OF THE RAIDS WERE PARTIALLY FINANCED BY CCINC FUNDS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, ELEMENTS OF THE PARAGUAYAN ARMY PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF THE RAIDS. IN MID-DECEMBER, REPORTEDLY IN RESPONSE TO BRAZILIAN PRESSURE AND INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN THE AREA THE PARAGUAYAN ARMY AND POLICE ELEMENTS INITIATED A CLEANUP OF THE INFAMOUS BORDER TOWN OF PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO. SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF AMPHETAMINES AND MARIJUANA REPORTEDLY WERE SEIZED AND NUMEROUS ARRESTS MADE. IN ADDITION, A SHAKE-UP OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT

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OF THE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNOR WAS CARRIED OUT.

3) WHILE THE NNA DEMONSTRATES INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST MARIJUANA PRODUCTION, THIS HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OVER TO INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ILLICIT TRADE IN HEROIN AND COCAINE, WHICH AS YET UNCONFIRMED INTELLIGENCE INCREASINGLY SUGGESTS IS TAKING PLACE HERE.

H. INCOME SUBSTITUTION: NOT APPLICABLE

I. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION: NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

3. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL: THERE IS NO DESCRIPTION SINCE FY-76 PROGRAM PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATES ONLY CENTRALLY FUNDED TRAINING.

BRIGGS

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